CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A data structure comprising:

at least one record including

a primary key data field,

an owner data field for indicating the owner of the record,

a workplace context data field for storing data indicating the context in which other data within the at least one record is interpreted, and

at least one other data field for storing the other data.

2. A system for managing a bill of materials comprising:

a data structure including

at least one record having

a primary key data field,

an owner data field for indicating the owner of the record, the owner data field including data representative of one of a plurality of owners, and

at least one other data field.

3. A system for managing a bill of materials comprising:

a database including

a single namespace; and

at least one record having

a primary key data field,

an owner data field for indicating the owner of the record, the owner data field including data representative of one of a plurality of owners, and

at least one other data field.

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